

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT FAQ'S:

DO ALL TREES REQUIRE PERMITS FOR RELOCATION OR REMOVAL?

A tree work permit is required for the relocation or removal of any Non-Specimen, Specimen or Heritage trees within the boundaries of the City of Miami Beach, on either public or private property, with few exceptions. For a list of exceptions please see the City of Miami Beach's Tree Ordinance 2014-3904, Sec. 46-58.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT THE REQUIRED CANOPY REPLACEMENT OF TREES WILL BE?

Please refer to the Tree Preservation Program's Mitigation Guidelines sheet and Canopy Credit Species list for canopy calculation assistance.

Note: Canopy replacement is doubled for removal of Specimen trees. Heritage tree canopy replacement is determined by the City Commission on a case by case basis.

WHAT OTHER ITEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS?

Please submit one (1) preliminary set of landscape plans, site sketch, tree survey etc. for review along with the completed application.

For submitted plan sets greater than ten (10) pages in length an electronic copy must be provided (CD/DVD/PDF etc.)

WHERE DO I SUBMIT THE PERMIT APPLICATIONS?

The completed application may be turned into the Tree Preservation Program, located on the 4th Floor of Miami Beach City Hall, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139.

Note: While scanned permit applications submitted digitally will allow the review process to start, the original permit application must be submitted in person to the City of Miami Beach's Tree Preservation Program to complete the review and permit issuance. A permit will not be issued without the original application on file.

HOW MUCH DOES A TREE PERMIT COST?

Please refer to the Tree Work Permit Fee Schedule for assistance with calculating permit fees.

Note: That for all trees removed/relocated prior to obtaining a tree work permit the fee schedule is doubled (After-the-fact).

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET A TREE PERMIT?

After official acceptance of the completed application, the Tree Preservation Program will review the application (which may include a field inspection,) and a decision to 'Approve', 'Deny' or 'Request Additional Information (RAI)' will be made within 30 days. Please note that applications must be completely filled out in order to be accepted including all required notarizations and accompanying documents.

DO I NEED A SEPARATE PERMIT FOR REMOVAL OF TREES IN THE ROW SWALE?

If applying for a tree removal permit within the City rights-of-way (ROW), please note that an application for a ROW permit must also be submitted to the Public Works Department/ROW Section. Three (3) signed and sealed plan sets (24"x36") are required, and must be stamped by the City Urban Forester after the City tree removal permit has been issued.

HOW LONG IS THE TREE PERMIT ACTIVE?

The permit is active for one year from the date that it's issued. If the permitted work is not completed within one year and an extension is not obtained the permit will expire.

WHAT IF MY PERMIT IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE OR HAS EXPIRED?

A permit can be renewed or extended at any time before expiration by submitting a Tree Permit application for renewal/extension. Once a permit has expired a new permit application and fee will need to be submitted.

DEFINITIONS:

WHICH TREES ARE ON THE PROHIBITED SPECIES LIST?

The City Tree Preservation Ordinance incorporates by reference the prohibited species list in Chapter 24 of the Miami-Dade County Code. No permit fees shall be charged for their removal, and replacement trees may be required for the removal of prohibited species.

Note: Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board approval is required before any specimen tree, including prohibited species, is removed from public or private property within a designated historic district.

WHAT IS DBH?

DBH (*Diameter at Breast Height*): The measurement of a tree's trunk diameter (width) taken four and one-half feet above the ground. The DBH measurement for trees with multiple-trunks is the sum of the diameters (widths) of all trunks at four and one-half feet above the ground.

WHAT IS A SPECIMEN TREE?

A Specimen Tree is any tree with a 12 inch width or greater trunk at breast height, or any multiple-trunk tree in which the total width of all the trunks at breast height is 12 inches or greater, but not including non-native species of the genus Ficus. A Tree Removal Permit is required for the removal of a Specimen Tree.

Note: That canopy replacement requirements for Specimen trees are double.

WHAT IS A HERITAGE TREE?

A Heritage Tree is a tree so designated by the City of Miami Beach's Mayor and Commission because of its unique or intrinsic value to the community with regards to its historic value, size, age, location, distinctive form, exceptional characteristics, ecological value or other relevant criteria. Heritage Tree designations can be initiated by any person with the written consent of the property owner(s) of such tree(s) by making an application to the Urban Forestry Division/Tree Preservation Program or, on City owned property by the City.

Note: That for Heritage Tree designation of a tree(s) on the Miami Dade County list of prohibited plants/exempt species a variance from Chapter 24 must be obtained from the County.